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NSC BRIEFING

29 December 1960

FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST

I. The French announced their third nuclear test was held 0730 local 27 December at regular Reggane test center in South-Central Sahara.

A. Public announcement of test said plutonium weapon of "small" yield fired from 50-meter tower.

25X1D

C. Test designed as part of program to make smaller, simpler weapons and study effect of nuclear weapons on military materiel and animals in blast zone.

25X1D

1. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman says another test can be expected in a "relatively short time--perhaps a few weeks."

25X1

II. USSR and Arab states have reacted more sharply than to first two tests.

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A. Radio Cairo couples French test with reports France aiding Israel in nuclear weapon production, and Arab League spokesman threatens possible severance political and economic relations with France.

III. Most African states strongly adverse.

- A. Moroccan-sponsored African summit meeting on 3 January likely to provide forum for bitter denunciations of France.
- B. Nkrumah has summoned "emergency" cabinet meeting for 30 December to consider new action against France.

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